

# SUBURBAN LIFE

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### SOCIAL EYES



DENISE LUCAS

## Party revives disco decade

Denise Lucas' column *Social Eyes* alternates with Gretchen Hitch's column *The Scene*. You can mail information to Lucas at *The Eccentric*, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009, or leave a message for her, on a touch-tone phone, by calling 563-2047, Ext. 1858. You also may write her at P.O. Box 250242, Franklin 48025, or call 442-2339.

Twenty-some years ago, while the baby boomers were "shaking their booty" at local discos, the "children of the '70s" were infants shaking their rattles for attention. Last week's Friday Night Fever was the chance for '70s kids to experience the disco decade and say, "Hey, look at us!" making headline news as "people who care about their community." The disco-fever benefit for the Orchard Children's Services brought in more than 300 young people wearing bell bottoms, hot pants, leisure suits and bare midriffs - fashions statements they borrowed from their parents, older siblings or Cinderella's closet. The Peking House party in Royal Oak was the hottest ticket in town Friday night with a venue that included hors d'oeuvres and dessert, a silent auction, a costume contest and souvenir mood rings.

"These are the children of the '70s helping the children of the '90s," said 20-something Brian Siegel, whose burgundy velvet jacket with satin lapels was paired with polyester balls. "We see over 1,000 kids a year that are abandoned, need foster care or adoption," said Jerry Levin of Orchard Children's Services. "We need new leaders in philanthropy and volunteer work." Stephanie Jacobson, Brian Siegel, Scott Kaufman, Michael Fishman, Caryn Nessel and Meredith Colburn are those leaders who chaired the polyester party that had guests groovin' to the Village People, Andy Gibb and discos "bad girl" Donna Summer.

Sherry Brown went to Brenda Rosenberg's closet to find her head-to-toe leopard print presentation. Lauren Hurwitz sizzled in her future mother-in-law's (Clare Jacobson's) favorite '70s orange crushed-velvet hot pants and vest. Lauren and Mike Jacobson (both attorneys) are planning an April 3 wedding and will honeymoon in Nevis (Princess Di's favorite holiday getaway).

Lisa Lapides was saturated in the '70s, over-the-knee boots, fringe vest, velvet shirt and headband. Michael Fishman admitted to being "somewhat caught in the '60s" in a transitional tie-dye T-shirt.

Joe and Nancy Jacobson stopped by just to say hi to daughter-in-law and son Stephanie and David.

Hey, where were the boomers? Maybe home, watching "20/20" or working at their P.C.s, while the so-called "lost generation" (these post-boomers) were making front page news.

### Changing of the guard

"I'm going to do what Bill Clinton should have done the day after his inauguration," said new president Susan Manlon with a laugh, "leave town. And my husband Peter will be the Hillary Clinton of the Christ Child Society of Detroit. He will be the first husband to have a job in the administration. We just have to find one."

Members of the Christ Child Society of Detroit gathered at the Birmingham Athletic Club to welcome their new two-year president and pay tribute to Kathy Sheehan (the outgoing prez).

"Kathy Sheehan is a superwoman," remarked Pat Hardy, comical MC of the evening. "During her presidency, her kitchen caught on fire, the Christ Child's van was stolen, her son got married,

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DENISE SIMAN LUCAS

'70s style: Catching disco fever at a recent fund-raiser are chairman Brian Siegel (left), chairwoman Caryn Nessel and chairman Michael Fishman, who pose for paparazzi.



# Josh & me



STAFF PHOTOS BY DAN DEAN

Best buddies: (Top) Single father Mike Layne and Joshua, 5, start the day at home in West Bloomfield. (Above) Josh likes to dress himself, but sometimes Daddy lends a hand.



Good morning: Layne grabs a cup of coffee in the kitchen, as he hurries with clothes for Josh from the dryer. (Right) Over breakfast, Josh plays a computer game on the Macintosh that his father uses to keep in touch with the office.



Being a single father, raising a child or children, is an experience common to an increasing number of dads. Area resident Mike Layne meets the challenge of parenting, on his own, with real satisfaction.

BY ETHEL SIMMONS  
STAFF WRITER

For the last year and a half, Mike Layne of West Bloomfield has been a single father, responsible for the care of his son, Joshua, who is a bright, energetic 5-year-old.

At first, handling extra parental duties after he and his wife divorced was a real challenge, but now Layne is doing very well, thank you, managing the daily routine in what appears to be an effortless way.

A high-energy guy, Layne spends his workday as a partner in Marx Layne, a leading marketing and public relations firm in Farmington Hills. But he gets Josh up in the morning, and they have breakfast together before Josh walks to the school bus.

When the bus brings Josh home from kindergarten at Green School, a nanny watches over him until Layne returns from work, usually after 7 p.m. Then, father and son spend the evening together, often with Dad cooking dinner for them, followed by sharing books and other activities.

"You can still be good on the job," Layne said, explaining how he combines a busy career with parenting. "The only thing is you don't have that freedom of motion. You can't leave when you want to."

Josh's mother is Japanese and has returned to Japan, but the bilingual youngster is being raised with the knowledge of both Eastern and Western cultures. Layne is Jewish, and so is Josh.

"I joke he's 'Jewponese.' He comes from two ancient cultures that have a lot in common," Layne said. "His religion is Judaism, but he has a lot of Japanese friends. I want him to be as comfortable in Tokyo as he is in West Bloomfield."

"I've learned a lot about what's important in life through raising my son. You can be a single father, dynamic on the job, and still be a great father."

Parent and child get along famously. There is joking and love on a constant basis. Layne is a good teacher, too, guiding his son, with praise as he instructs.

On a recent evening when Layne arrived home from work, his arms filled with grocery bags, Josh ran into the kitchen to greet him. After Layne put down the bags, he scooped Josh into

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